

What is claimed is:

1. A method for controlling a device for the  
5 distribution and processing of video signals, the  
device having a number of inputs and outputs and also  
signal processing stages which can optionally be  
switched into the signal paths for the processing of  
the input signals, the method comprising the following  
10 steps:
  - (a) input signals are represented on a display with an  
input symbol;
  - (b) input signals with common properties are assigned  
15 input symbols which have a common color property  
and/or graphical property;
  - (c) the relations between a specific input symbol and  
the assigned input signal and the relevant input  
are stored;
  - (d) an output of the device is assigned an output  
20 symbol, which represents the desired properties of  
the output signal in the same way as the input  
symbols represent the properties of the input  
signals;
  - (e) an output symbol is assigned to an input symbol,  
25 whereupon the relevant input is connected to the  
relevant output.
2. The method as claimed in claim 1, **wherein** the  
input signals have predefined properties and the input  
30 symbols are assigned in a manner dependent on the  
predefined properties of the input signals.
3. The method as claimed in claim 1, **wherein** the  
input signals are analyzed with regard to their  
35 properties and the input symbols are assigned in a  
manner dependent on the ascertained properties of the  
input signals.

4. The method as claimed in claim 1, **wherein** the properties of the input signals are structured in groups and the assigned symbols are reflected by visual commonalities.

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5. The method as claimed in claim 1, **wherein** the properties of the output signals are structured in groups and the assigned symbols are reflected by visual commonalities.

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6. The method as claimed in claim 1, **wherein** the properties of the input and output signals are structured in groups and the assigned symbols are reflected by visual commonalities.

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7. The method as claimed in claim 1, **wherein** signal processing stages are switched into the signal path in order to convert the properties of the input signal into the properties of the output signal.

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8. The method as claimed in claim 1, **wherein** the connection of the signal path between an input and an output is effected by the actuation of a crossbar.

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9. The method as claimed in claim 7, **wherein** the conversion of the properties of input signals is effected by the actuation of signal converters.

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10. The method as claimed in claim 7, **wherein** the connection of the signal path between an input and an output is effected by the confirmation of a multiplexer.

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11. The method as claimed in claim 7, **wherein** the connection of the signal path between an input and an output is effected by the confirmation of a demultiplexer.

12. The method as claimed in claim 5, **wherein** the connection of the signal path between an input and an output is effected by the confirmation of a multiplexer and of a demultiplexer.

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13. The method as claimed in claim 7, **wherein** a check is made to determine whether the properties of an input signal can be converted into the desired properties of an output signal, and if that is not possible, the  
10 assignment of the relevant input symbol to the relevant output symbol is not permitted.

14. The method as claimed in claim 7, **wherein** a check is made to determine whether the device is able to  
15 perform the desired signal conversion.

15. The method as claimed in claim 13, **wherein** a check is made to determine whether the device is able to perform the desired signal conversion.

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16. A storage medium on which is stored a program code which can be stored in the program memory of a data processing system and brings about the execution of a program which carries out the method steps as claimed  
25 in claim 1.